

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating obesity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical formulation consisting of an effective dosage of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist, ~~and~~ an effective dosage of metformin, and a pharmaceutical carrier, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is selected from the group consisting of fenofibrate, gemfibrozil, fenofibric acid, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of gemfibrozil, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of fenofibric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of bezafibrate, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of ciprofibrate, wherein said effective dosage of [a] the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and said effective dosage of metformin are effective for the treatment of obesity.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is fenofibrate, fenofibric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of fenofibric acid.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the effective dosage of the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the effective dosage of metformin is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[12]~~ 18, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin are administered simultaneously.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[12]~~ 18, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin are administered sequentially.

18. (New) A method of treating obesity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical formulation consisting of a first and second composition wherein the first composition consists of an effective dosage of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and a pharmaceutical carrier and the second composition consists of an effective dosage of metformin and a pharmaceutical carrier, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is selected from the group consisting of fenofibrate, gemfibrozil, fenofibric acid, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of gemfibrozil, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of fenofibric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of bezafibrate, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of ciprofibrate, wherein said effective dosage of the PPAR $\alpha$

agonist and said effective dosage of metformin are effective for the treatment of obesity.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is fenofibrate, fenofibric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of fenofibric acid.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the effective dosage of the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the effective dosage of metformin is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.